

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 L-03 SP-02 /049 W

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INFO CINCPAC

DOD WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

CINCPACREPPHIL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 4866

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF BX SEARCHES AT SUBIC

REF: MANILA 4797

1. TIMES JOURNAL AND BULLETIN TODAY CARRIED FOLLOWING  
FRONT PAGE STORIES ON INCIDENT REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. TIMES JOURNAL QUOTE "INCIDENT SEARCHES AT SUBIC PROVED. -  
U.S. NAVY OFFICIALS TODAY ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF  
THE ALLEGED INDISCRIMINATE SEARCHES MADE BY TWO AMERICAN  
FEMALE SECURITY GUARDS ON 25 FILIPINA EMPLOYEES OF THE  
NAVY EXCHANGE INSIDE SUBIC NAVAL BASE. CMDR. ERWIN A.  
SHARP, U.S. NAVY SPOKESMAN SAID THE SEARCHES WERE CONDUCTED  
INSIDE A COMFORT ROOM AT THE NAVY POST EXCHANGE (PX) INSIDE  
THE BASE. THE EMPLOYEES, MOST OF WHOM ARE SALESGIRLS,  
WERE FRISKED IN THE PRESENCE OF TWO AMERICAN FEMALE  
SECURITY GUARDS. SHARP SAID US NAVY OFFICIALS WERE  
PARTICULARLY LOOKING INTO THE EMPLOYEES ALLEGATIONS THAT  
THEY WERE MADE TO STRIP DURING THE SEARCH.

SHARP SAID DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE  
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WHO CONDUCTED THE SEARCH IF THEY WERE FOUND TO HAVE ACTED

BEYOND THEIR OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ZELDA DE LA LLANA, FILIPINA DEPARTMENT HEAD AT THE NAVY EXCHANGE AND ONE OF THE 25 WOMEN WHO WERE SEARCHED, SAID CHARGES OF SLANDER BY DEED AND COERCION HAVE ALREADY BEEN FILED BEFORE THE CITY FISCAL'S OFFICE AGAINST THE TWO AMERICAN FEMALE SECURITY GUARDS AND THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER.

THE TWO SECURITY GUARDS WERE IDENTIFIED AS CAROL LICHTENBERG AND LOLORES FLOYD. THE COMMANDING OFFICER WAS IDENTIFIED AS CMDR. R.A. VERPLATSE.

DE LA LLANA SAID ONLY 11 OF THE 25 GIRLS HAVE SO FAR FILED CHARGES OF SLANDER BY DEED AND COERCION AGAINST THE AMERICANS.

DE LA LLANA SAID THAT THE OTHER 14 FILIPINAS HAVE YET TO EXECUTE AFFIDAVITS BEFORE THE CITY FISCAL.

THE INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO DR. RUBEN DE OCAMPO, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION OF FILIPINO CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES ON THE US BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHO IMMEDIATELY CALLED THE ATTENTION OF US NAVY AUTHORITIES. OCAMPO SAID HE WILL TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH HIGHER AMERICAN AND PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS IN MANILA IF US NAVY AUTHORITIES HERE WILL NOT CONDUCT THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION. "I WILL NOT STOP UNTIL ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE INDECENT ACTS COMMITTED AGAINST THESE FILIPINO GIRLS ARE ALL PUNISHED," OCAMPO SAID.

HE ALSO SAID THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME FILIPINO FEMALE EMPLOYEES WERE SUBJECTED TO SUCH ACTION BY AMERICAN GUARDS, NOT ONLY AT THE NAVY EXCHANGE BUT ALSO AT THE BASE MAIN GATE.

SHARP SAID PROPER AUTHORITIES WILL BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THE INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY US NAVY OFFICIALS. UNQUOTE.

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3. BULLETIN TODAY - QUOTE SUBIC BASE INCIDENT - ELEVEN FEMALE EMPLOYEES OF THE NAVY EXCHANGE IN THE BASE HERE HAVE FILED SLANDER BY DEED CHARGES WITH THE CITY FISCAL'S OFFICE AGAINST TWO AMERICAN FEMALE SECURITY GUARDS AND THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE EXCHANGE. THE CHARGES WERE IN CONNECTION WITH AN INCIDENT LAST MARCH 15 IN WHICH 25 GIRLS WERE ALLEGEDLY UNDRESSED DURING A SEARCH CONDUCTED AFTER THE DAY'S WORK. THE SEARCH WAS ALLEGEDLY

ORDERED BY THE COMMANDING OFFICER BECAUSE THE EXCHANGE  
WAS LOSING HEAVILY. CMDR. ERWIN A. SHARP, PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
OFFICER OF SUBIC BASE, SAID US NAVY OFFICIALS ARE NOW  
INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENT. UNQUOTE.

4. FYI. SUBIC NAVAL AUTHORITIES REPORT THAT THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE EMPLOYEES UNION HAS TRIED TO CALM THE  
AGGRIEVED EMPLOYEES BUT HAS ENCOUNTERED STRONG RESISTANCE  
FROM SEVERAL OF THE WOMEN WHO WANT TO PURSUE THE ISSUE  
IN THE MANNER OF V. GOMEZ, WHOM THEY SEEM TO VIEW AS A  
HEROINE. MORE PRESS PLAY IS LIKELY. WE WILL  
HOLD OUR COMMENTS ON THE INCIDENT TO THE PRESS  
GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REFTEL. END FYI.  
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## Message Attributes

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